

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1 1. A technique for handling subscriber calls in a communications network
2 using a routing plan prescribed by the subscriber independent of the manner in which the
3 calls originate and terminate, comprising the steps of:

4 receiving in the network a call from a calling party dialed to a called party,

5 launching a query to database containing routing plans to obtain a called party
6 routing number for the called party in accordance with a subscriber routing plan that is
7 independent of call origination and termination;

8 mapping the called party routing number to a physical port in the network when
9 the called party routing number corresponds to a circuit-switched call destination; or to a
10 IP address when the called party routing number corresponds to a packet-based call
11 destination; and

12 routing the call to the call destination in accordance with the mapping.

1 2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the call is received in the
2 network as a circuit-switched call having a packet-based destination.

1 3. The method according to claim 1 wherein the call is received in the
2 network as a packet-based call having a circuit-switched destination.

1 4. The method according to claim 1 wherein the call is received in the
2 network as a packet-based call having a packet based destination.

1 5. The method according to claim 1 wherein the query includes at least one
2 of the called party number and a number associated with the calling party.

1 6. The method according to claim 1 wherein query is launched to the
2 database to also determine whether the calling party should receive an announcement,
3 and if so then
4 providing an announcement to the calling party.

1 7. The method according to claim 1 wherein query is launched to the
2 database to also determine whether digits should be collected from the calling party, and
3 if so then
4 collecting digits from the calling party.

1 8. The method according to claim 1 wherein query is launched to the
2 database to also determine whether the calling party should receive an announcement and
3 digits should be collected from the calling party, and if so, then
4 providing an announcement to the calling party; and
5 collecting digits from the calling party.

1 9. The method according to claim 1 further including the steps of:
2 determining if the routing the call in accordance with said mapping yields a busy
3 trigger, and if so, then
4 establishing an alternate call routing number destination by querying said
5 database; and
6 mapping the alternate called party routing number to a physical port in the
7 network when the alternate called party routing number corresponds to a circuit-switched
8 call destination; or to an IP address when the called party's routing number corresponds
9 to a packet-based call destination; and
10 routing the call to the call destination in accordance with the mapping.

1 10. The method according to claim 1 wherein the routing plans in the database
2 exists to support circuit based destinations and is augmented to handle packet-based
3 destinations.

1 11. The method according to claim 1 wherein the database and the routing plans
2 contained therein are entirely new.

1 12. A technique for handling subscriber calls in a communications network
2 using a routing plan prescribed by the subscriber independent of the manner in which the
3 calls originate and terminate, comprising the steps of:

4 receiving in the network a call from a calling party dialed to a called party,
5 launching a query to database containing routing plans to (a) obtain a called party
6 routing number for the called party in accordance with a subscriber routing plan that is
7 independent of call origination and termination, and (b) obtain an indication whether the
8 calling party should receive an announcement;

9 providing the announcement when the query indicates that an announcement
10 should be provided;

11 mapping the called party routing number to a physical port in the network when
12 the called party routing number corresponds to a circuit-switched call destination; or to a
13 IP address with the called party routing number corresponds to a packet-based call
14 destination; and

15 routing the call to the call destination in accordance with the mapping.

1 13. The method according to claim 12 wherein the call is received in the
2 network as a circuit-switched call having a packet-based destination.

1 14. The method according to claim 12 wherein the call is received in the
2 network as a packet-based call having a circuit-switched destination.

1 15. The method according to claim 12 wherein the call is received in the
2 network as a packet-based call having a packet based destination.

1 16. The method according to claim 12 wherein the query includes at least one
2 of the called party number and a number associated with the calling party.

1 17. A technique for handling subscriber calls in a communications network
2 using a routing plan prescribed by the subscriber independent of the manner in which the
3 calls originate and terminate, comprising the steps of:

4 receiving in the network a call from a calling party dialed to a called party,

5 launching a query to database containing routing plans to (a) obtain a called party
6 routing number for the called party in accordance with a subscriber routing plan that is
7 independent of call origination and termination, and (b) obtain an indication whether
8 digits should be collected from the calling party;

9 collecting digits from the calling party when the query indicates digits should be
10 collected;

11 mapping the called party routing number to a physical port in the network when
12 the called party routing number corresponds to a circuit-switched call destination; or to a
13 IP address when the called party routing number corresponds to a packet-based call
14 destination; and

15 routing the call to the call destination in accordance with the mapping.

1 18. The method according to claim 17 wherein the call is received in the
2 network as a circuit-switched call having a packet-based destination.

1 19. The method according to claim 17 wherein the call is received in the
2 network as a packet-based call having a circuit-switched destination.

1 20. The method according to claim 17 wherein the call is received in the
2 network as a packet-based call having a packet based destination.

1 21. The method according to claim 17 wherein the query includes at least one
2 of the called party number and a number associated with the calling party.

1 22. A technique for handling subscriber calls in a communications network
2 using a routing plan prescribed by the subscriber independent of the manner in which the
3 calls originate and terminate, comprising the steps of:

4 receiving in the network a call from a calling party dialed to a called party,
5 launching a query to database containing routing plans to (a) obtain a called party
6 routing number for the called party in accordance with a subscriber routing plan that is
7 independent of call origination and termination, and (b) obtain an indication whether (i)
8 an announcement should be provided and (ii) digits should be collected from the calling
9 party;

10 providing the announcement when the query indicates that an announcement
11 should be provided;

12 collecting digits from the calling party when the query indicates digits should be
13 collected;

14 mapping the called party routing number to a physical port in the network when
15 the called party routing number corresponds to a circuit-switched call destination; or to a
16 IP address when the called party routing number corresponds to a packet-based call
17 destination; and

18 routing the call to the call destination in accordance with the mapping.

1 23. The method according to claim 22 wherein the call is received in the
2 network as a circuit-switched call having a packet-based destination.

1 24. The method according to claim 22 wherein the call is received in the
2 network as an packet-based call having a circuit-switched destination.

1 25. The method according to claim 22 wherein the call is received in the
2 network as a packet-based call having a packet based destination.

1 26. The method according to claim 22 wherein the query includes at least one
2 of the called party number and a number associated with the calling party.

1 27. A technique for handling subscriber calls in a communications network
2 using a routing plan prescribed by the subscriber independent of the manner in which the
3 calls originate and terminate, comprising the steps of:

4 receiving in the network a call from a calling party dialed to a called party,

5 launching a query to database containing routing plans to obtain a called party

6 routing number for the called party in accordance with a subscriber routing plan that is
7 independent of call origination and termination;

8 mapping the called party routing number to a physical port in the network when

9 the called party routing number corresponds to a circuit-switched call destination; or to a
10 IP address with the called party routing number corresponds to a packet-based call

11 destination;

12 routing the call to the call destination in accordance with the mapping;

13 determining if the routing the call in accordance with said mapping yields a busy
14 trigger, and if so, then

15 establishing an alternate call routing number destination by querying said

16 database; and

17 mapping the alternate called party routing number to a physical port in the

18 network when the alternate called party routing number corresponds to a circuit-switched
19 call destination; or to a IP address when the called party's routing number corresponds to
20 a packet-based call destination; and

21 routing the call to the call destination in accordance with the mapping of the

22 alternate called party number.

1 28. The method according to claim 27 wherein the call is received in the

2 network as a circuit-switched call having a packet-based destination.

1 29. The method according to claim 27 wherein the call is received in the

2 network as an packet-based call having a circuit-switched destination.

1 30. The method according to claim 27 wherein the call is received in the

2 network as an packet-based call having a packet based destination.

1 31. The method according to claim 27 wherein the query includes at least one

2 of the called party number and a number associated with the calling party.

1 32. The method according to claim 27 wherein query is launched to the
2 database to also determine whether the calling party should receive an announcement,
3 and if so then
4 providing an announcement to the calling party.

1 33. The method according to claim 27 wherein query is launched to the
2 database to also determine whether digits should be collected from the calling party, and
3 if so then
4 collecting digits from the calling party.

1 34. The method according to claim 27 wherein query is launched to the
2 database to also determine whether the calling party should receive an announcement and
3 digits should be collected from the calling party, and if so, then
4 providing an announcement to the calling party; and
5 collecting digits from the calling party.
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